THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) There is no proposal other than ongoing Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the benefit of all categories of farmers, including the poor farmers of Himachal Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Consumption of Coconut in Northern India

3527. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coconut Development Board has any plan to encourage consumption of coconuts in Northern India;

(b) has the Coconut Development Board done any survey on the economic feasibility of transporting coconuts from Andhra Pradesh to non-coconut growing areas;

(c) if so, what are the details of findings of this survey;

(d) whether any marketing campaign will be done by the Coconut Development Board to encourage use of coconut products from Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if so, details of such plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Coconut Development Board is encouraging consumption of coconuts in Northern India through its active participation in trade fairs, melas and exhibitions. The Board has programmes for promotion of product diversification and by product utilisation like packed tender coconut water, coconut cream, coconut skimmed milk powder, coconut vinegar and desiccated coconut.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) To promote utilisation of coconut by products like desiccated coconut powder, coconut milk powder and packaged tender coconut water, the Board has conducted consumer acceptability studies in Andhra Pradesh. The Coconut Development Board had conducted State level seminar on Processing

and Marketing of Coconuts in Andhra Pradesh at Tadepalligudam involving representatives of major industries, farmers, traders and research organisations etc. The Coconut Development Board State Centre, Hyderabad participates in various exhibitions and fairs. Besides local level seminars are also organised by the Board. It is proposed to further intensify market promotional activities by the Board during 9th Plan.

Target for Agricultural Production

†3528. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target for agricultural production has been fixed by Government ath 300 miliion tonnes by 2007;

(b) if so, to what extent the target exceeds the existing production;

(c) what is the increase in the rate of annual production is needed to achieve this target; and

(d) the scheme launched by Government during the current year to achieve the target of annual rate of increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has fixed a target of foodgrains production of 300 million tonnes by 2007-08 and not of agriculture production.

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission has projected a growth rate of 4.45 per cent for achieving target of foodgrains production of 300 million tonnes in the ten years period from 1997-98 to 2007-08.

The existing production of foodgrains is estimated at 201.56 million tonnes for the current year at present i.e. 1999-2000. This represents an increase of 4.84 per cent over the production of base period of 1997-98 when foodgrains production was 192.26 million tonnes.

(d) During the current year no scheme relating to foodgrains production has been launched. However, a number of schemes, both Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector, are being implemented during current year as approved for the IX Plan for integrated development of Rice, Wheat, Coarse Cereals and Pulses Crops.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.